



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-4333)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio, Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Donald S. Andrews

Excused: Commissioner Anne S. Hill and Commissioner Susan Burton

Call to Order. (13-4234)

Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. Commissioner Grills joined the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

- 1. Approval of the September 4, 2013. (13-4240)**

During the review of the minutes, Commissioner Andrews stated that he would like to clarify for the record his recommendation as recorded in the audio recording of the September 4, 2013 Sybil Brand Commission (SBC) meeting, regarding the possible establishment of an agricultural training program in the North County facility, to assist selected inmates to acquire some sort of agricultural skills while serving their jail time. He stated that Commissioner Burton misconstrued his recommendation as promoting a forced labor program. Commissioner Andrews wanted it stated for the record that his recommendation was not in any way to encourage a forced labor program. Rather, he was trying to explore the possibility of an agricultural program that will help inmates to acquire skills to manage irrigation systems or operate machinery that can spin

off into job opportunities in agriculture and other industries including large equipment operators.

On motion of Commissioner Barbara Bigby, seconded by Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and unanimously carried, the minutes of September 4, 2013 were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Chairperson's Report on various items for September 11, 2013. (13-4241)

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Newspaper Articles:

Daily Breeze:

- A Gleaming New Superior Court (September 8, 2013)

Los Angeles Times:

- A Fix For Jail Overcrowding (September 5, 2013)
- County Jails Face New U.S. Probe (September 7, 2013)
- 5 Jobs Politicians Convict (September 7, 2013)
- Prison Problems Move Into County Lockups (September 9, 2013)
- County's New/Old Jail Problem (September 10, 2013)

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Treasurer's Report for September 11, 2013. (13-4242)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that as of August 21, 2013 the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund remains at \$625.96.

4. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports for September 11, 2013. (13-4243)

Twila P. Kerr, Acting Chief, Commission Services and N'nette Williams, Assistant Chief, Commission Services, were present to address the Commissioners regarding the directives from the Audit Committee regarding the SBC Sunset Review. Ms. Kerr reported that the Auditor Controller recommended to the Audit Committee to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to extend the SBC sunset review date to October 2017. In reviewing the Auditor Controller's recommendations described

in the June 17, 2013 memorandum, the Audit Committee (Committee) inquired to know who was responsible for following up with the unsatisfactory findings that are reported by the SBC Commissioners to make sure the findings are corrected timely and appropriately.

Subsequently, the Committee invited representatives from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCSF) and the Probation Department (Probation) to attend the August 2013 Audit Committee meeting, to provide answers to the questions that the Committee may have. As a result, the Committee requested the Executive Office to work with DCSF and Probation, to review the services that each Department provides and explore ways for the Commission and the Departments to work more collaboratively. Also to ensure that the services provided by the Departments and the Commission are strategically maximized and not overlapping. Ms. Kerr further stated that the Audit Committee would like to receive recommendations and/or feedbacks on October 16, 2013.

The Commissioners were in concurrence to meet with the Department representatives immediately following the SBC Business meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2013 to discuss strategies and ways to work more collaboratively together. Staff will contact the departments' representatives to advise them to come prepared and allot additional time to attend the September 18, 2013 SBC Business meeting.

Vice Chairperson Bacio also expressed concerns that youth are being returned back home to unhealthy environments in addition to being given excessive medication at the group homes.

Commissioner Andrews also stated that many group home providers have expressed concerns of not being able to achieve much success with the youth because they are only allowed to stay in the homes for six months. He also stated that he desires to see more collaboration with the departments responsible for making the decisions to release the youth early to ensure youth are not being returned to unhealthy environments.

Chairperson Montaña stated that in the past, group homes had children that they kept from babies to their teenage years but currently their stay have been reduced to six months. She also stated that reuniting them with their families will damage them in the future instead of helping them. She will like to see the problems at home corrected first before returning children back home. Commissioner Bigby and Vice

Chairperson Bacio concurred.

Commissioner Grills took an exception to the other Commissioners opinions and stated that in her opinion reuniting children with their families should not be dragged out. However, she is in agreement that children should not be returned to an unhealthy environment. She also stated that the County is currently in an uproar about the practices of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) system, the disadvantages of minority children and the length of time that the children are kept in the system. She stated that the length of stay in the group homes has nothing to do with the environment from which the youth come from, but with the structural racism within DCFS. She further stated that because of these issues, the Board of Supervisors recently launched the Blue Ribbon Commission to look into the practices. She stated that the Commission should be in support of providing resources that will aid families in reuniting with their children sooner. She concluded by stating that some of the group homes are not providing the stability and security that will support children's resiliency, instead they are re-traumatizing the children's situations and experiences and not giving the children the attention and security in terms of family attachment.

- 5. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on September 11, 2013. (13-4244)**

In Compliance:

- Commissioner Grills visited Pennacale Foundation, Page 31, #1, on September 7, 2013.**
- Chairperson Montano and Commissioner Andrews visited Olive Crest Treatment Center, Page 28, #4, on September 10, 2013.**

- 6. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from September 5, 2013 to September 10, 2013. (13-4248)**

During the reporting period, the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory conditions:

- Commissioner Grills visited Pennacale Foundation, Page 31, #1, on September 7, 2013 and reported although the facility was in satisfactory condition, the following needs improvement:**
 - Two Needs and Service Plans (NSPs) were outdated**
 - Two smoke detectors were not working**

- There were no carbon monoxide detectors
 - Three fire extinguishers were expired
 - The medications were not double locked
 - The kitchen, bathroom, and hallway walls needs maintenance
 - The youth hygiene supply needs to be replenished
 - The kitchen dishes and utensils were low in supply
- Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited Children Are Our Future, Page 7 #2, on September 5, 2013.
- Commissioner Grills visited Touch of Life Foundation, Page 39, #4, on September 10, 2013 and reported that although the facility was in satisfactory condition, the following needs improvement:
 - Bedrooms one and two need new mattresses, carpet, and window dressings
 - The first aid kit needs updating
 - No earthquake kit
 - NSPs need to be on file
 - Carbon monoxide detectors are needed
- Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Care Provider Children and Family Services, Page 4, #1, September 5, 2013 and reported although the facility was in satisfactory condition, the following needs improvement:
 - New window coverings are needed in the recreation room
 - A new floor in the kitchen and recreation room
 - Re-sanding is needed for the dining area and hallway
 - She will do a follow-up visit in 30 days.
- Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Hathaway-Sycamore, Page 19, #4, on September 6, 2013 and reported that the urinal needs unplugging and the bedrooms are in need of new mattresses, curtains, and paint.
- Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Bigby visited Camp Rocky on September 10, 2013.

During the reporting period, the following Group Home was visited but not inspected:

- Chairperson Montaña visited Counseling & Research Association, Page 9, #1, on September 9, 2013 and reported no one was at home.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

7. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-4250)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

8. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-4251)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

9. Adjournment for the meeting of September 11, 2013. (13-4256)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of September 11, 2013 in memory of the victims of 9/11 at 11:30 a.m.